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PERSPECTIVES

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They won. Get over it.

*The OSPIRG flap has been
interesting to watch,
but it's time to move on*

For weeks we've been caught in a storm. A flurry of posters, buttons, leaflets, rumors, accusations, letters to the editor and general snarkiness. We've been regaled with accounts of who put posters where, how much money this or that organization spent on its campaign and where exactly the money goes.

Welcome to democracy at the University. It's passionate, fiery, occasionally bitter but never dull. And sometimes, it's even mildly entertaining. The annual elections have at last passed us by and now it's all over except for the grievances.

And make no mistake, there are grievances. Just last Thursday, before the general elections had even been decided, a student filed a complaint against the ASUO questioning their use of student fees to bring consumer advocate Ralph Nader to campus on the eve of the general election.

The grievance alleges that Nader's appearance violated an ASUO election rule barring individuals from disrupting class time to promote measures or candidates and an ASUO Executive rule that states that incidental fees may not be used to support particular campaigns.

True, the apt timing of Nader's appearance does inspire raised eyebrows and chin scratching, but is that enough reason to clog the process with yet another grievance?

When one considers all of the information, it's unlikely that the ASUO went out of its way to influence the election.

Furthermore, Nader's appearance in the EMU Amphitheater was not the sole reason for his visit to Oregon. He had already spoken in Portland earlier that day, and he was billed as a speaker for

Earth Week, which coincided with the general election.

If nothing else helps the ASUO's case, the event was not well publicized. So, if this was all a plan to give OSPIRG the edge in the polls, it wasn't a very good one.

Finally, OSPIRG won by more than 471 votes. While several hundred students attended Nader's speech, it's unlikely that the rally alone was enough to account for such a significant win. Whether you support or oppose OSPIRG, the math pretty much speaks for itself.

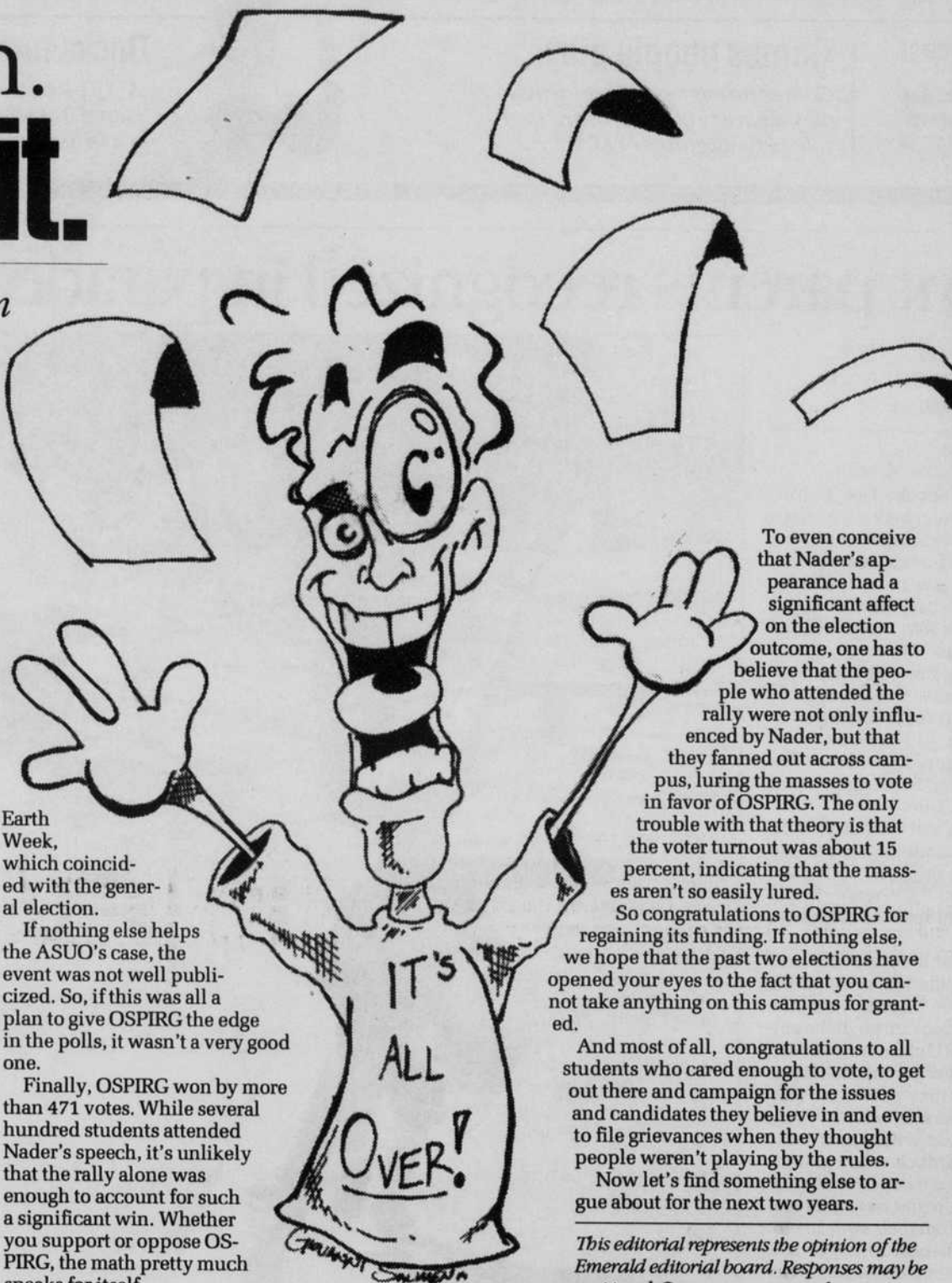
To even conceive that Nader's appearance had a significant affect on the election outcome, one has to believe that the people who attended the rally were not only influenced by Nader, but that they fanned out across campus, luring the masses to vote in favor of OSPIRG. The only trouble with that theory is that the voter turnout was about 15 percent, indicating that the masses aren't so easily lured.

So congratulations to OSPIRG for regaining its funding. If nothing else, we hope that the past two elections have opened your eyes to the fact that you cannot take anything on this campus for granted.

And most of all, congratulations to all students who cared enough to vote, to get out there and campaign for the issues and candidates they believe in and even to file grievances when they thought people weren't playing by the rules.

Now let's find something else to argue about for the next two years.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.



Thumbs



THUMBS UP

To reaching out: The Ribbon of Promise, a violence prevention campaign started in Springfield after the Thurston High School shooting, will establish a chapter in Littleton, Colorado. Leaders of the campaign hope it will be a step toward healing the community in the aftermath of last week's shootings at Columbine High School.

To preventative measures:

Several junior high school students were expelled from school and held on conspiracy charges after police found bomb making materials and instructions in their homes last week. The police were alerted after students overheard the boys discussing plots to kill students and teachers and came forward.



THUMBS DOWN

To red-lighting teens: The Oregon Legislature is considering bills that would limit teen access to driver licenses. One bill would limit the number of passengers minors can carry, and the other would deny licenses to teenage dropouts.

To race-based stops: A year after three minority motorists were shot during a traffic stop in New Jersey, an investigation of law enforcement agencies has confirmed that racial profiling does occur in the state.



CORRECTION

The voting results that accompanied the April 23 article, "Students vote to reinstate OSPIRG" should have read: No. 3 OSPIRG: Yes: 1,437; No: 966.

In the April 23 article "Ducks break losing streak, don't get the sweep," the score of game one should have been reported as 4-0. The Emerald regrets the errors.

LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Letters must be limited to

250 words. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, clarity, grammar, style and libel. Letters may be dropped off at EMU Suite 300.